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Oddballs in the C

Ex-boss Turner says he weeded out

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WASHINGTON — Stansfield Turner, former head of the Central Intelligence Agency, said he had been troubled by some agency undercover operatives with "a screw loose."

Turner, CIA director in the Carter administration, voiced the opinion in response to a reporter's question. The newsman noted that among agency spies who had surfaced, many — regardless of orientation — seemed to "have a screw loose" and a "messiah complex," and he wondered if this were a problem.

He mentioned characters as different as Philip B. Agee, who systematically has been disclosing names of his former secret colleagues, and a former CIA under-

cover operative who was involved in the Watergate burglary during the Nixon administration.

Turner agreed with the newsman's characterization and added the names of former operatives Edwin P. Wilson and Frank E. Terpil, now fugitives, who have been working for Libya, and Edwin G. Moore, a retired CIA employee who had been arrested in 1976 in Washington throwing documents over the wall of the Soviet Embassy.

Turner, a retired admiral, said he didn't "believe that the agency was careful enough in the past in weeding out people who had a screw loose."

Part of the trouble, he said, was an "ethic in the intelligence world that you did not send a man away who has learned some secrets."

The result is a person within who is more dangerous than if he were turned out, Turner said.

Turner said he instituted an effort to get rid of the oddball individuals and to make sure new ones were weeded out "early on."

"You need not let a Wilson or a Terpil get such information that he's going to be a valuable turncoat if he turns."

Shortly after arriving at the CIA, said Turner, he read a report by Washington Post Reporter Bob Woodward that some CIA agents were moonlighting, working for Wilson and Terpil. One even had business cards in one pocket identifying him in his CIA-authorized job and cards in another listing him in his capacity with Wilson and Terpil, he said.